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TRAN, CON P

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,358

Applicant(s)

DENNINGHOFF, KARL

Examiner

CON P. TRAN

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 1, lines 6, and 9-10 states "an external speaker". It is unclear that "an external speaker" in lines 9-10 is the same as that "an external speaker" in line 6.. For purpose of examination, examiner interprets this limitation as "the external speaker".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 10-12, 14, 24-27** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erekson et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erekson").

Regarding **claim 14**, Willins teaches an event announcement system (headset 120, Fig. 1) for a computing device (computing device 110, col. 3, lines 16-32; see Figs. 1, 2, 3, 6 and respective portions of the specification), comprising:

a computing device (computing device 110, col. 3, lines 19-25);

an event announcement device (headset 120, Fig. 1) directly physically coupled (headset cord, col. 2, lines 6-12) to the computing device (col. 3, lines 16-32) comprises an external speaker separate from a speaker internal to the computing device (speaker of headset 120, Fig. 1); and

a control program (sensing component 130, Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 32-37;

where "component" is intended to refer to a computer-related entity, either hardware, a combination of hardware and software, software, or software in execution; col. 3, lines 7-15) being executed by the computing device (computing device 110) that controls the event announcement (ringing, col. 4, lines 19-25) of the computing device (computing device 110), the control program (program, col. 3, lines 7-15) further comprising instructions (software in execution, col. 3, lines 7-15) that determine the type of the event announcement device (i.e., operate with one or more different type of headset 120, Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 25-32) coupled to the computing device (110, see Fig. 1) and instructions that generate a predetermined event announcement signal (ringing for telephone mode, col. 4, lines 54-59) based on the determined type of event announcement device (issue command based on headset, see step 635, Fig. 6; col. 6, lines 43-55) is an external speaker (headset 120, Fig. 1).

However, Willins does not explicitly disclose the computing device that manages Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call.

Erekson discloses a system and method of interfacing a standard telephone (col. 1, lines 7-10) or Personal Digital Assistants (col. 6, lines 41-47) to a VoIP compatible communication network in which the software and circuitry interface being able to generate a ring signal in the attached telephone handset after detecting an incoming VoIP call (col. 4, lines 30-34) and keep their E-mail and web applications running while conducting multiple voice and data calls over one phone line (col. 2, lines 24-28), i.e., manages Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the system and method of interfacing to a VoIP compatible communication network taught by Erekson with the system of Willins such that the computing device manages Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call as claimed for purpose of creating the same look, feel, and usage to which the user is accustomed from the standard telephone connection, as suggested by Erekson in column 3, lines 50-52.

Regarding **claim 24**, Willins teaches the system of Claim 14, wherein the computing device further comprises a personal digital assistant (col. 3, lines 22-25).

Regarding **claim 25**, Willins teaches the system of Claim 14, wherein the event further comprises an incoming telephone call (col. 4, lines 19-25).

Regarding **claims 26-27**, Willins teaches the system of claim 14. However, Willins does not explicitly disclose wherein the event further comprises an incoming VoIP telephone call.

Erekson discloses a system and method of interfacing a standard telephone (col. 1, lines 7-10) or Personal Digital Assistants (col. 6, lines 41-47) to a VoIP compatible communication network in which the software and circuitry interface being able to generate a ring signal in the attached telephone handset after detecting an incoming VoIP call (col. 4, lines 30-34) and keep their E-mail and web applications running while conducting multiple voice and data calls over one phone line (col. 2, lines 24-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the system and method of interfacing to a VoIP compatible communication network taught by Erekson with the system of Willins wherein the event further comprises an incoming VoIP telephone call; and an incoming electronic mail message as claimed for purpose of creating the same look, feel, and usage to which the user is accustomed from the standard telephone connection, as suggested by Erekson in column 3, lines 50-52

Regarding **claim 1**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 14 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons. It is noted that Willins does not specify the headset which including two speakers (see Willins col. 5, lines 38-46) is a stereo device. However, Erekson further discloses the VoIP packets takes place

in the sound system providing stereo surround speakers (col. 2, lines 46-55); including headset (140, Fig. 2; col. 8, lines 65-67; col. 9, lines 13-19).

Regarding **claim 10**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 25 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding **claims 11-12**, these claims merely reflect the method to the apparatus claim of Claims 26-27 and are therefore rejected for the same reasons.

5. **Claims 2, 15, and 23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erikson et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erikson"), and further in view of DeLadurantaye U.S. Patent 6,350,150.

Regarding **claim 15**, Willins teaches the system of claim 14. Willins teaches the computing device further comprises a headset receptacle jack (not shown) which can accept a plurality of different types of headsets (i.e., the event announcement device ; col. 3, lines 61-67). Erikson, as modified, further discloses the VoIP packets takes place in the sound system providing stereo surround speakers (col. 2, lines 46-55); including headset (140, Fig. 2; col. 8, lines 65-67) plugged into podule (110, Fig. 2; col. 9, lines 13-19). However, Willins in view of Erikson does not explicitly specify wherein the headset receptacle jack being a stereo jack.

DeLadurantaye discloses a computing device (personal computer) including mini stereo jack, an adapter having a male mini stereo jack (3, Figs. 3, 5) for connection into the PC sound board; and also having a female mini stereo jack (2, Figs. 3, 5) for reception of standard PC sound equipment (col. 2, lines 48-57) such as speaker (see Figs. 3, 5; col. 3, lines 61-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the mini stereo jack taught by DeLadurantaye with the system of Willins in view of Erikson wherein the computing device further comprises a stereo jack into which the event announcement device is coupled as claimed for purpose of allowing direct connection, as suggested by DeLadurantaye in column 1, lines 16-17.

Regarding **claim 23**, Willins in view of Erikson and further in view of DeLadurantaye teaches the system of claim 15. DeLadurantaye, as modified, further teaches the stereo jack (including a female mini stereo jack 2, Figs. 3, 5) further comprises a portion which leaves an internal speaker of the computing device connected (the male stereo plug 3, Figs. 1, 3, 5 being inserted into female stereo jack, not shown; see col. 3, 53-58) and a second portion which connects an external event announcement device to the computing device (inserting the standard male plug of typical computer speakers into female stereo plug (2) of the device male stereo plug (3, Figs. 1, 3, 5; col. 3, lines 53-58) so that both the internal speaker and the external event announcement device are capable of generating the predetermined event

announcement signal (i.e., by splitting the signal coming from the computer into three ways; col. 3, lines 53-58; in other words, the internal speaker also generates sound signal).

Regarding **claim 2**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 15 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

6. **Claims 3-4, 6, 16-17, and 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erikson et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erikson"), in view of DeLadurantaye U.S. Patent 6,350,150, and further in view of Roberts U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0196249.

Regarding **claim 16**, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye teaches the system of claim 15. Erikson, as modified, further discloses the VoIP packets takes place in the sound system providing stereo surround speakers (col. 2, lines 46-55); including headset (140, Fig. 2; col. 8, lines 65-67; col. 9, lines 13-19). DeLadurantaye, as modified, further teaches an external speaker separate from a speaker internal to the computing device (i.e., standard computer speakers using standard male plug of typical computer speakers into female stereo plug (2, Figs. 1, 3) and a standard home audio connecting to left and right RCA plugs (4, Figs. 1, 3) both connected to the stereo jack (not shown) on the soundcard via male stereo plug (3,

Figs. 1, 3; see col. 3, 53-58) and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the external speaker (i.e., to split the signal coming from the computer three ways; col. 3, lines 53-58).

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye does not explicitly disclose the standard home audio being a set of headphones.

Roberts discloses a winter hat has build in headphones in which the headphone speakers connecting to portable device via RCA plug adapter (see Front view Figure; [0001, 0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the set of headphones taught by Roberts with the system of Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye to obtain an external speaker and a set of headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing to hear live information, as suggested by Roberts in paragraph [0001].

Regarding **claim 17**, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye and further in view of Roberts teaches the system of claim 16. DeLadurantaye, as modified, further discloses the male stereo plug (3, Figs. 1, 3) being inserted into female stereo jack (not shown) and connected to left and right RCE female plugs (4) at the end of cable (5, Figs. 1, 3, 5; col. 3, lines 42-67), which is left and right stereo RCA cables (col. 1, lines 46-51); the stereo RCA cables (5) are soldered to soldered wire connections (6) on the back of stereo plug (3; see Fig. 5; col. 3, lines 46-52) to split the signal coming from the computer three ways (col. 3, lines 53-58).

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye and further in view of Roberts does not explicitly specify wherein the external speaker is electrically connected to a first channel of the stereo jack and wherein the set of headphones is electrically connected to a second channel of the stereo jack.

Nevertheless, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, those of ordinary skill in the art when facing a design need of connecting a external speaker to a first channel and a set of headphones to a second channel would have recognized and would have modified the system of Willins in view of DeLadurantaye and further in view of Roberts by connecting the external speaker and the set of headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing direct connection to audio equipment without disconnection of the computing sound output equipment, as suggested by DeLadurantaye in column 1, lines 15-18.

Regarding **claim 19**, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye teaches the system of claim 15. DeLadurantaye, as modified, further teaches a female stereo plug (2, Figs. 1, 3), a standard home audio connecting to left and right RCA plugs (4, Figs. 1, 3) both connected to the stereo jack (not shown) on the soundcard via male stereo plug (3, Figs. 1, 3; see col. 3, 53-58) and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the internal speaker (i.e., to split the signal coming from the computer three ways; col. 3, lines 53-58; in other words, the internal speaker also generates sound signal).

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye does not explicitly disclose the standard home audio being a set of headphones.

Roberts discloses a winter hat has build in headphones in which the headphone speakers connecting to portable device via RCA plug adapter (see Front view Figure; [0001, 0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the set of headphones taught by Roberts with the system of Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye to obtain an external speaker and a set of headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing to hear live information, as suggested by Roberts in paragraph [0001].

Regarding **claims 3-4**, these claims merely reflect the method to the apparatus claim of claims 16-17 and are therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding **claim 6**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 19 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

7. **Claims 5 and 18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erikson et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erikson") in view of DeLadurantaye U.S. Patent 6,350,150, in view of Roberts U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0196249, and further in view of Singer et al. U.S. Patent 5,889,843 (hereinafter, "Singer").

Regarding **claim 18**, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye teaches the system of claim 15. DeLadurantaye, as modified, further teaches a female stereo plug (2, Figs. 1, 3), a standard home audio connecting to left and right RCA plugs (4, Figs. 1, 3) both connected to the stereo jack (not shown) on the soundcard via male stereo plug (3, Figs. 1, 3; see col. 3, 53-58) and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the internal speaker (i.e., to split the signal coming from the computer three ways; col. 3, lines 53-58; in other words, the internal speaker also generates sound signal).

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye does not explicitly disclose the standard home audio being a set of headphones.

Roberts discloses a winter hat has build in headphones in which the headphone speakers connecting to portable device via RCA plug adapter (see Front view Figure; [0001, 0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the set of headphones taught by Roberts with the system of Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye to obtain an external speaker and a set of headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing to hear live information, as suggested by Roberts in paragraph [0001].

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye in view of Roberts does not explicitly disclose the set of headphones being an in-ear headphones.

Singer discloses a system of audio communication (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 20-25) in which the set of audio output devices can be in the form of headphones including in-ear headphones (col. 5, lines 3-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the set of in-ear headphones taught by Singer with the system of Willins, Erikson, DeLadurantaye, and Roberts in combination to obtain the in-ear headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing allow a user to arrange and manipulate an auditory environment, as suggested by Singer in column 11, lines 31-34.

Regarding **claim 5**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 18 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

8. **Claims 7 and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erikson et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erikson"), in view of DeLadurantaye U.S. Patent 6,350,150, and further in view of Pan et al. U.S. Patent 6,653,934 (hereinafter, "Pan").

Regarding **claim 20**, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye teaches the system of claim 15. DeLadurantaye, as modified, further teaches an external speaker separate from the speaker internal to the computing device (i.e., standard computer speakers using standard male plug of typical computer speakers

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into female stereo plug (2, Figs. 1, 3) and a standard home audio connecting to left and right RCA plugs (4, Figs. 1, 3) both connected to the stereo jack (not shown, col. 3, 53-58) and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the internal speaker (i.e., to split the signal coming from the computer three ways; col. 3, lines 53-58; in other words, the internal speaker also generates sound signal).

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye does not explicitly disclose wherein the event announcement device further comprises a buzzer.

Pan discloses an application of such audio transducers, commonly known as buzzers in the field of portable electronic devices, such as cell phones, PDA or pagers (col. 1, lines 13-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the buzzer taught by Pan with the external speaker in system of Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye to obtain buzzer as claimed for purpose of being both reliable and compact, as suggested by Pan in column 1, lines 19-20.

Regarding **claim 7**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 20 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

9. **Claims 8 and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erikson et al.

U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erekson"), in view of DeLadurantaye U.S. Patent 6,350,150, in view of Roberts U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0196249, and further in view of Pan et al. U.S. Patent 6,653,934 (hereinafter, "Pan").

Regarding **claim 21**, Willins in view of Erekson in view of DeLadurantaye teaches the system of claim 15. DeLadurantaye, as modified, further teaches an external speaker separate from the speaker internal to the computing device (i.e., standard computer speakers using standard male plug of typical computer speakers into female stereo plug (2, Figs. 1, 3) and a standard home audio connecting to left and right RCA plugs (4, Figs. 1, 3) both connected to the stereo jack (not shown) on the soundcard via male stereo plug (3, Figs. 1, 3; see col. 3, 53-58) and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the internal speaker (i.e., to split the signal coming from the computer three ways; col. 3, lines 53-58; in other words, the internal speaker also generates sound signal).

However, Willins in view of Erekson in view of DeLadurantaye does not explicitly disclose the standard home audio being a set of headphones.

Roberts discloses a winter hat has build in headphones in which the headphone speakers connecting to portable device via RCA plug adapter (see Front view Figure; [0001, 0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the set of headphones taught by Roberts with the system of Willins in view of Erekson in view of DeLadurantaye to obtain an external

speaker and a set of headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing to hear live information, as suggested by Roberts in paragraph [0001].

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye in view of Roberts does not explicitly disclose wherein the event announcement device further comprises a buzzer.

Pan discloses an application of such audio transducers, commonly known as buzzers in the field of portable electronic devices, such as cell phones, PDA or pagers (col. 1, lines 13-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the buzzer taught by Pan with the external speaker in system of Willins, Erikson, DeLadurantaye, and Roberts in combination to obtain buzzer as claimed for purpose of being both reliable and compact, as suggested by Pan in column 1, lines 19-20.

Regarding **claim 8**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 21 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

10. **Claims 9 and 22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erikson et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erikson"), in view of DeLadurantaye U.S. Patent 6,350,150, in view of Roberts U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0196249, in view

of Singer et al. U.S. Patent 5,889,843 (hereinafter, "Singer"), and further in view of Pan et al. U.S. Patent 6,653,934 (hereinafter, "Pan").

Regarding **claim 22**, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye teaches the system of claim 15. DeLadurantaye, as modified, further teaches a female stereo plug (2, Figs. 1, 3), a standard home audio connecting to left and right RCA plugs (4, Figs. 1, 3) both connected to the stereo jack (not shown) on the soundcard via male stereo plug (3, Figs. 1, 3; see col. 3, 53-58) and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the internal speaker (i.e., to split the signal coming from the computer three ways; col. 3, lines 53-58; in other words, the internal speaker also generates sound signal).

However, Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye does not explicitly disclose the standard home audio being a set of headphones.

Roberts discloses a winter hat has build in headphones in which the headphone speakers connecting to portable device via RCA plug adapter (see Front view Figure; [0001, 0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the set of headphones taught by Roberts with the system of Willins in view of Erikson in view of DeLadurantaye to obtain an external speaker and a set of headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing to hear live information, as suggested by Roberts in paragraph [0001].

However, Willins in view of DeLadurantaye in view of Roberts does not explicitly disclose the set of headphones being an in-ear headphones.

Singer discloses a system of audio communication (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 20-25) in which the set of audio output devices can be in the form of headphones including in-ear headphones (col. 5, lines 3-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the set of in-ear headphones taught by Singer with the system of Willins, Erikson, DeLadurantaye, and Roberts in combination to obtain the in-ear headphones as claimed for purpose of allowing allow a user to arrange and manipulate an auditory environment, as suggested by Singer in column 11, lines 31-34.

However, Willins, Erikson, DeLadurantaye, Roberts and Singer in combination does not explicitly discloses wherein the event announcement device further comprises a buzzer.

Pan discloses an application of such audio transducers, commonly known as buzzers in the field of portable electronic devices, such as cell phones, PDA or pagers (col. 1, lines 13-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the buzzer taught by Pan with the external speaker in system of Willins, Erikson, DeLadurantaye, Roberts and Singer in combination to obtain buzzer as claimed for purpose of being both reliable and compact, as suggested by Pan in column 1, lines 19-20.

Regarding **claim 9**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 22 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

11. **Claims 28 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willins et al. U.S. Patent 7,110,799 (hereinafter, "Willins") in view of Erikson et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Erikson"), and further in view of Pan et al. U.S. Patent 6,653,934 (hereinafter, "Pan").

Regarding **claim 28**, Willins in view of Erikson teaches the system of claim 14. However, Willins in view of Erikson does not explicitly disclose wherein the event further comprises an incoming page.

Pan discloses an application of such audio transducers, commonly known as buzzers in the field of portable electronic devices, such as cell phones, PDA or pagers (col. 1, lines 13-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the pagers taught by Pan with the external speaker in system of Willins in view of Erikson such that wherein the event further comprises an incoming page as claimed for purpose of being both reliable and compact, as suggested by Pan in column 1, lines 19-20.

Regarding **claim 13**, this claim merely reflects the method to the apparatus claim of Claim 28 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.

12. **Claim 29** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLadurantaye U.S. Patent 6,350,150 in view of Roberts U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0196249, and further in view of Ereksan et al. U.S. Patent 6,826,174 (hereinafter, "Ereksan").

Regarding **claim 29**, DeLadurantaye teaches an event announcement device (including standard computer speakers and a standard home audio; see col. 3, 53-68), comprising:

a stereo jack (including stereo jack, not shown, on the soundcard ; a male stereo plug 3, Figs. 1, 3; see col. 3, 53-58) having a first channel and a second channel (i.e., left and right stereo channel);

left and right RCE female plugs (4) at the end of cable (5, Figs. 1, 3, 5; col. 3, lines 42-67), which is left and right stereo RCA cables (col. 1, lines 46-51) connecting to standard home audio (col. 3, lines 65-67); the stereo RCA cables (5) are soldered to soldered wire connections (6) on the back of stereo plug (3; see Fig. 5; col. 3, lines 46-52) to split the signal coming from the computer three ways (col. 3, lines 53-58).

DeLadurantaye does not explicitly specify one of the left and right stereo RCA cables connected to a first channel; and one of the left and right stereo RCA cables connected to a second channel of the stereo jack.

Nevertheless, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, those of ordinary skill in the art when facing a design need of connecting one of the left and right stereo RCA cables to a first channel: and a one of the left and right stereo RCA cables to second channel of the stereo jack would have recognized and would have modified the event announcement device of DeLadurantaye such for purpose of allowing direct connection to audio equipment without disconnection of the computing sound output equipment, as suggested by DeLadurantaye in column 1, lines 15-18.

However, DeLadurantaye does not explicitly specify the standard home audio being an event announcement device.

Roberts discloses a winter hat has build in headphones in which the headphone speakers (i.e., event announcement device) connecting to portable device via RCA plug adapter (see Front view Figure; [0001, 0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the headphone taught by Roberts with the event announcement device of DeLadurantaye such that each headphone (which corresponds to an event announcement device) is connected to each of left and right stereo RCE female plugs for purpose of allowing to hear live information, as suggested by Roberts in paragraph [0001], i.e., directly physically connected to an external speaker separate from a speaker internal to the computing device.

However, DeLadurantaye in view of Roberts does not explicitly disclose the signal provided to the first event announcement element corresponds to receipt of a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call.

Erekson discloses a system and method of interfacing a standard telephone (col. 1, lines 7-10) or Personal Digital Assistants (col. 6, lines 41-47) to a VoIP compatible communication network in which the software and circuitry interface being able to generate a ring signal in the attached telephone handset after detecting an incoming VoIP call (col. 4, lines 30-34) and keep their E-mail and web applications running while conducting multiple voice and data calls over one phone line (col. 2, lines 24-28); the VoIP packets takes place in the sound system providing stereo surround speakers (col. 2, lines 46-55); including headset (140, Fig. 2; col. 8, lines 65-67) plugged into podule (110, Fig. 2; col. 9, lines 13-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the system and method of interfacing to a VoIP compatible communication network taught by Erekson with the system of DeLadurantaye in view of Roberts such that the signal provided to the first event announcement element corresponds to receipt of a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call as claimed for purpose of creating the same look, feel, and usage to which the user is accustomed from the standard telephone connection, as suggested by Erekson in column 3, lines 50-52.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but they are not persuasive.

As presented above in the Office Action, regarding claims 1, 14 Willins teaches directly physically coupled (headset cord, col. 2, lines 6-12) to the computing device (col. 3, lines 16-32) comprises an external speaker separate from a speaker internal to the computing device (speaker of headset 120, Fig. 1).

In addition regarding Claim 29, as presented above in the Office Action, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the headphone taught by Roberts with the event announcement device of DeLadurantaye such that each headphone (which corresponds to an event announcement device) is connected to each of left and right stereo RCE female plugs for purpose of allowing to hear live information, as suggested by Roberts in paragraph [0001], i.e., directly physically connected to an external speaker separate from a speaker internal to the computing device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CON P. TRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7532. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (08:30 AM - 05:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor VIVIAN C. CHIN can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/CPT/
October 6, 2008

/Vivian Chin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2615